

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074871
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S E C R E T STATE 074871

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 826 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA KUWAIT TEL AVIV

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QUOTE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0826

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON - DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL

REF: STATE 72516

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO TAKING STEPS TO DEPLOY ADVANCE ELEMENTS

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PAGE 02 STATE 074871

OF UIFIL MARCH 22. IRANIAN COMPANY WILL TAKE OVER TWO
EASTERN MOST BRIDGES ACROSS LITANI MARCH 23. FRENCH AND
NORWEIGIAN CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED SHORTLY. SIILASVUO WILL
VISIT BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS MARCH 25. WEIZMAN NOW REFUSES
ADVANCE OF ADF TO LITANI BUT UN DOES NOT THINK
THIS IS FINAL WORD AND SIILASVUO NOT DISMAYED. ROCKETS
IMPACTED IN METULLA AREA AND MINDEF HAS STATED IDF WILL RETURN

FIRE IF ITS UNITS OR ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ATTACKED. END
SUMMARY.

1. SAW SIILASVUO 1100 LOCAL MARCH 22 JUST AFTER HIS MEETING WITH WEIZMAN AND GUR AND CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTTEL. SIILASVUO SAID IRANIAN COMPANY FROM UNDOF WOULD ARRIVE METULLA 1200 LOCAL, WOULD BEGIN RECONNAISSANCE WITH HELP UNTSO OBSERVERS SAME DAY AND MAIN ELEMENTS WOULD BEGIN MOVEMENT TO TWO EASTERNMOST BRIDGES ACROSS LITANI 0800 MARCH 23. FRENCH EXPECTED VIA BEIRUT SHORTLY. THEY WILL BE DEPLOYED TO TYRE AND TO THIRD LITANI BRIDGE NEAR COAST. NORWEIGIAN 16-MAN ADVANCE PARTY WILL ARRIVE IN THREE DAYS AND REMAINING 743 BY MARCH 31.

2. IN MEETING WITH WEIZMAN AND GUR, LATTER HAD BROUGHT IN LARGE MAPS TO DISCUSS AREAS WHERE UNIFIL WOULD OPERATE. SIILASVUO HAD REFUSED TO ENTER INTO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF WHICH AREAS WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY UN AND WHICH BY IDF. HIS INTENTION, HE SAID, WAS TO CREATE A BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN LITANI AND IDF AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THEN EXPAND IT SOUTHWARD TO BORDER TO PERMIT IDF TO WITHDRAW. WEIZMAN REITERATED GOI DECISION TO WITHDRAW PROVIDED PLO WOULD NOT RETURN. HE ALSO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT GOL INTENDED TO DO ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES.

3. WHEN QUESTION OF ADVANCE OF ADF TO LITANI AROSE,
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PAGE 03 STATE 074871

WEIZMAN, CONTRARY TO POSITION ADOPTED EARLIER, SAID THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE. PRIETO GOT IMPRESSION HIS POSITION WAS NOT LAST WORD AND THAT WEIZMAN WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH GUR ON THIS POINT. SIILASVUO UNDISMAYED SINCE HE BELIEVES CURRENT ISRAELI POSITION WILL ASSIST HIM IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SYRIANS. DESPITE URGING OF WEIZMAN AND GUR, SIILASVUO REFUSED CONSIDER UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN NABATIYAH.

4. AS FOR CEASEFIRE, WALDHEIM HAD BEEN TOLD BY TERZI IN NEW YORK PLO WOULD RESPECT IT. NEVERTHELESS, KATYUSHA ROCKETS HAD FALLEN ON METULLA MORNING MARCH 22. WHILE WE WERE TALKING, SIILASVUO WAS HANDED MESSAGE STATING ISRAELI MINDEF HAD INFORMED UN IF IDF UNITS OR ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS FIRED UPON, ISRAEL WOULD RETURN FIRE.

5. SIILASVUO HAS CLEARANCE FROM SYG TO GO TO DAMASCUS VIA BEIRUT. HE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO GO MARCH 23 BUT SYRIANS HAVE JUST ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT UNTIL SATURDAY. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING AMBASSADOR PARKER DURING HIS BEIRUT STOP. SIILASVUO FULLY INTENDS TO URGE SYRIANS TO PRESSURE PLO ON CEASEFIRE AND ADVANCE

TO LITANI. HE BELIEVES SYRIANS WISH TO DO
SO. SIILASVUO FURTHER BELIEVES SYRIANS WISH TO GO TO
LITANI FOR THEIR OWN REASONS. WHEN I URGED HIM TO TAKE
UP MATTER OF TRANSIT OF IRAQI CONVOYS, HE AND PREITO
WERE PUZZLED SINCE NEITHER WEIZMAN OR GUR HAD MENTIONED
PROBLEM IN THEIR LENGTHY MEETING JUST
CONCLUDED. NEVERTHELESS AT OUR URGING, HE WILL RAISE MATTER IN
DAMASCUS.

6. IDF (LEVINSON) MEETING WITH LEBANESE ARMY REPS MARCH 22
IN NAQUORA TO WORK OUT MODALITIES FOR RETURN OF REFUGEES.

7. COMMENT: SIILASVUO SEEMS TO HAVE UNIFIL MATTERS WELL
IN HAND AND IS PRESSING AHEAD TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES WE
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PAGE 04 STATE 074871

SEEK IN PARA TWO STATE 72516.
NEWLIN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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